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amendments.*(54) Title: PROCESS FOR THE PREPARATION OF AQUEOUS DISPERSIONS OF PARTICLES OF WATER-SOLUBLE POLYMERS
AND THE PARTICLES OBTAINED**(57) Abstract**

The invention is a process for the preparation of cross-linked water-swellable polymer particles. First, an aqueous polymer solution containing a water-soluble polymer having at least one functional group or charge, is combined with aqueous medium. The aqueous polymer solution is then mixed under moderate agitation with an oil medium and an emulsifier to form an emulsion of droplets of the water-soluble polymer. A cross-linking agent capable of cross-linking the functional groups and/or charges in the water-soluble polymer is then added to the emulsion to form cross-linked water-swellable polymer particles. The invention also includes the particles formed by the process and aqueous dispersions containing the particles which are useful for administering to an individual. The particles of the invention are useful for implantation, soft tissue augmentation, and scaffolding to promote cell growth.